

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-13, and 16-24 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8-10, and 19 are amended; and Claims 2, 3, and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

Office Action Summary

The drawings were objected to for allegedly failing to show the switching mechanism recited in Claim 1; Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2003-314856 to Harushige (hereinafter "Harushige"); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harushige in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,042,271 to Manz (hereinafter "Manz"); Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harushige in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,805,542 to Hosoda et al. (hereinafter "Hosoda"); and Claims 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harushige in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,644,059 to Maeda et al. (hereinafter "Maeda").

Drawing Objection

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings, and submit that a switching mechanism (as recited in Claim 1) is illustrated in a non-limiting example in at least Fig. 1. For example, dampers 53a, 54a, 55a, and 56a described in the specification in at least paragraph [0098] facilitate the changing of the distribution route of air in the casing, and thus are one possible implementation of the claimed switching mechanism. Therefore, the drawings

illustrate all features recited in Claim 1 and Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and submit that one skilled in the art would reasonably interpret the recited "thickness direction" as the shortest dimension of the box. In the interest of compact prosecution, Claims 8-11 are amended to recite that the thickness direction is defined parallel to the shortest side of the flattened box. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8-13 are definite, and request that the rejection of Claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), with respect to amended Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features previously recited in Claim 3, with Claim 3 consequently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, Claim 1 is amended to recite that the compressor is disposed *downstream of the first and second heat exchangers in the air passageway*.

Briefly summarizing, amended Claim 1 recites a humidity control system, which includes, *inter alia*, a box-shaped casing internally having an air passageway in which two heat exchangers are disposed. Further, the humidity control system includes *a compressor disposed in the air passageway ... disposed downstream of the first and second heat exchangers in the air passageway*.

The Office Action asserts that Harushige describes an air internal passageway, but concedes that Harushige is silent regarding a compressor being disposed in the internal air passageway. However, the Office Action attempts to cure this deficiency of Harushige by relying on Manz, as teaching a compressor positioned in an air flow from a fan. However, this limitation is not the same as recited in amended Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 1 recites that the compressor is disposed *in the internal air passageway* (in which heat exchangers are disposed). On the other hand, Manz fails to teach or suggest **any** air passageway in which a heat exchanger is disposed. At best, Manz describes “helical coil 70 mounted on the side wall of canister 62 in a heat exchange relationship therewith.” Helical coil 70 is not mounted in any particular air passageway, and therefore the **compressor 22 is not mounted in an internal air passageway**. Moreover, compressor 22 is not mounted **downstream of a helical coil 70**, much less **downstream of first and second heat exchanger in an air passageway**, as recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, the combination of Harushige and Manz fails to teach or suggest all features recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the applied references, and request that the rejection of Claim 1, 4, 5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 10-13 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 10-13 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and submit that the secondary references fail to cure the deficiencies of Harushige and Manz. Therefore, Claims 10-13 and 16-24 are allowable at least by virtue of direct or indirect

dependence from Claim 1, and Applicants request that the rejection of Claims 10-13 and 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact George S. Dolina, Reg. No. 63,654, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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